

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 OMB-01 CAB-09 COME-00 EB-11 FAA-00

SY-10 USSS-00 AID-20 IO-14 DOTE-00 DRC-01 /159 W

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P 071020Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0034

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 555

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS SN

SUBJ: TERRORIST ACTIVITIES IN SINGAPORE

REF: SINGAPORE 0525

MESSRS. HENNESSEY AND MACEDA ARE CONTINUING THEIR SURVEY OF SINGAPORE AIRPORT AND HAVE FOUND THAT THE STATIC SECURITY IS EXCELLENT IN THAT A BARBED-WIRE FENCE SURROUNDS MOST OF THE AIRPORT WHICH IS ALSO WELL PATROLLED BY POLICE.

THE SECURITY PROVIDED BY SINGAPORE AIRLINES (SIA) IS EXCELLENT AND INCLUDES PHYSICAL SEARCH OF LUGGAGE AND CARRY-ON BAGS AS WELL AS THE USE OF MAGNETOMETER. SIA PASSENGERS ARE THEN PLACED IN A STERILE AREA, SEPARATED FROM IN-TRANSIT PASSENGERS. SIA HAS HIRED A LOCAL SECURITY AGENCY FOR THE ABOVE SEARCHES. SEVERAL OTHER AIRLINES ALSO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS SERVICE. IN ADDITION PASSENGERS BOARDING SIA PLANES IN OTHER COUNTRIES ARE ALSO THOROUGHLY SEARCHED. LUFTHANSA AIRLINES SECURITY IS EXCELLENT AND THIS AIRLINE HAS EMPLOYED ITS OWN SECURITY PERSONNEL, ONE OF WHOM ALSO RIDES ON THE PLANE.

THE ABOVE SITUATION, HOWEVER, DOES NOT PREVAIL WITH A NUMBER OF OTHER AIRLINES, THE PASSENGERS OF WHICH
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ARE NOT SEARCHED THOROUGHLY AND CAN MINGLE FREELY WITH

IN-TRANSIT PASSENGER. THIS, IN EFFECT NULLIFIES MUCH OF THE PRECAUTIONS TAKEN BY SIA.

THE GOS COUNTERPARTS OF MESSRS. HENNESSEY AND MACEDA CONTINUE TO EMPHASIZE AIRPORT SECURITY RATHER THAN IN-FLIGHT SECURITY. AN SIA OFFICIAL HAS STATED A PERSONAL VIEW REGARDING THE INADVISABILITY OF EMPLOYING SKY MARSHALS WHICH, ACCORDING TO HENNESSEY AND MACEDA, IS IN AGREEMENT WITH U.S. VIEWS ON THIS POINT.

A MEETING SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 7 TO DISCUSS RECOMMENDATIONS OF FAA PERSONNEL ON THE SCENE AND THE DESIRES OF THEIR GOS COUNTERPARTS HAD TO BE POSTPONED TO FEBRUARY 8 DUE TO COMPLICATIONS CAUSED BY THE ARRIVAL OF THE JAL AIRCRAFT SENT TO TAKE THE FOUR TERRORISTS ABOARD THE FERRY LAJU FROM SINGAPORE. THE SINGAPOREANS WERE APOLOGETIC ABOUT THE POSTPONEMENT.

THE DCM MET WITH TAN BOON SENG, DEPUTY PERMSEC, MFA, ON FEBRUARY 7 TO INFORM HIM OF THE PROGRESS OF DISCUSSIONS BY FAA PERSONNEL AND THEIR GOS COUNTERPARTS AS WELL AS THE CURRENT EMPHASIS BY THE LATTER ON AIRPORT SECURITY VIS-A-VIS IN-FLIGHT SECURITY.
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Message Attributes

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